

The Scroll

of the Park Avenue Synagogue

Vol. IV, No. 3

November 17, 1941 — Heshvan 27, 5702

REMINISCENCES, SYMPOSIUM TO END SABBATH CYCLE

The two concluding services in the anniversary sermon series, on November 21, and 28, will continue the festive theme of the preceding Friday evenings.

This Friday evening, November 21, Rabbi Steinberg will speak to the congregation on the subject, "Jewish Life, Then and Now." In his message, he will describe the sharp contrasts between the Jewish situation as it was when the congregation was first founded and that which now prevails. He will also indicate the continuing elements in Jewish life which remain under all changes.

During the course of worship, the deceased rabbis, cantors, presidents and trustees of the congregation will be memorialized.

"Old Timers'" Oneg Shabbat

At the Oneg Shabbat which will follow the service, a group of "old timer" congregation members will reminisce on the life of the Synagogue in years gone by. Participating in this program will be Mr. Edward Pollak, son of an original trustee who founded the congregation; Mr. Samuel S. Kogan, who was once president of the Junior League, and Messrs. Ezra Cohen, Milton Weill, Alex Ostriker, Jerome J. Oppenheimer, Emanuel Rosenthal, Gustave Oberdorfer and Barney Schlinger, all of whom celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs in

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ADULT CLASSES OPEN

On Monday evening, November 10, the Adult Classes under the auspices of the Committee on Adult Education inaugurated their fall season with a most gratifying registration.

The theme of the major lecture course, "Current Social Problems in the Light of the Jewish Tradition," proved most stimulating in Rabbi Steinberg's presentation. A healthy and vigorous discussion followed upon the lecture.

Other courses being offered are in elementary and intermediate Hebrew, the Choral Group, a seminar conducted by Rabbi Zimet on "What is in the Prayer Book," and a seminar on "Problems of the Religious Life" conducted by Rabbi Steinberg. Registrations are still being accepted.

The classes will meet each Monday evening through December 15. Requests for information as to registration should be addressed to Mrs. J. M. Wiener at the Synagogue.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET RESERVATIONS POUR IN

Committee Promises Gala Affair At Plaza on November 30

The long-awaited Banquet and Dance commemorating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the founding of the congregation is almost at hand. The Hotel Plaza and Sunday evening, November 30, are the place and time. Milton Weill, Chairman of the Banquet and Dance Committee, reports that reservations have been made in large numbers and that if only by virtue of attendance the occasion is already assured of success.

Festive Dinner Program

The committee has planned a number of interesting surprises for a gay and festive dinner program. George Tapps, the dancer now appearing on Broadway as the star of "Pal Joey," will be on hand. The well-known Ink Spots will also be present along with other star performers. Music for dancing will be furnished by Dick Gasparre and his Persian Room orchestra.

The couvert for dinner, which will conform with traditional dietary laws, is \$7.50 per plate. For the young people of the congregation who wish to attend the dance only, an admission of \$1.50 has been made available. Members who have not yet made their reservations are urged to do so at once by contacting the Synagogue office. It is unnecessary to delay until a direct approach by a committee member. Members are also requested to arrange their tables so as to facilitate the work of the committee.

Committee in Charge

The committee in charge consists of Mr. Milton Weill, chairman; Mrs. Fred Abrams, George L. Armour, Joseph Butler, Mrs. Ezra Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford H. Cohen, Moe Gale, Mrs. Abraham Geller, Mrs. Leo Guggenheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Haft, Saul Horowitz, Seymour Klein, Burton Mazur, Mrs. Jules Mendel, Alex Ostriker, Mrs. Edward Peiper, Eugene Picker, Saul Ritter, Mrs. Benjamin Sack, Abraham C. Schnege.

The Park Avenue Synagogue
 50 East 87th Street, New York
 Sacramento 2-8765

MILTON STEINBERG Rabbi
 ERWIN ZIMET Assistant Rabbi
 DAVID J. PUTTERMAN Cantor
 ERWIN ZIMET ... Principal, Religious School
Officers

JACOB FRIEDMAN, JR..... President
 CHARLES WEILL..... First Vice-President
 MORRIS EDELMAN..... Second Vice-President
 FREDERICK FINN..... Chairman of Board
 MILTON WEILL..... Vice-Chairman of Board
 ARTHUR OCHS Treasurer
 ALBERT FISCH Assistant Treasurer
 EMANUEL ROSENTHAL..... Executive Secretary
 M.S. FRED ABRAMS..... Sisterhood President
 M. D. MILLHEISER..... Sexton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, November 18

First Aid Class—11 A.M.

Wednesday, November 19

Women's Hebrew Class—11 A.M.

Thursday, November 20

Thanksgiving Day Service—10:45 A.M.
 at Society for Advancement of Judaism,
 15 West 86th Street

Friday, November 21

First Aid Class—11 A.M.
 Sabbath Service—8:30 P.M.
 Oneg Shabbat in Vestry
 Old Timers' Night

Saturday, November 22

Morning Service—9:30 A.M.
 Junior Congregation Service—10:30 A.M.

Sunday, November 23

Sunday School Classes—9:45 A.M.

Monday, November 24

Red Cross Group—10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
 Adult Classes
 Choral Group—8 P.M.

Tuesday, November 25

First Aid Class—11 A.M.
 Sisterhood Meeting—1:30 P.M.

Wednesday, November 26

Women's Hebrew Class—11 A.M.

Friday, November 28

First Aid Class—11 A.M.
 Sabbath Service—8:30 P.M.
 Symposium

Saturday, November 29

Morning Service—9:30 A.M.
 Junior Congregation Service—10:30 A.M.

Sunday, November 30

Sunday School Classes—9:45 A.M.
 Banquet and Dance at
 Hotel Plaza—7:30 P.M.

Monday, December 1

Red Cross Group—10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
 Adult Classes
 Choral Group—8 P.M.

IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The thanks of the congregation to the Sisterhood which conducts the Oneg Shabbat and in particular to Mrs. William Karmiol, Oneg Shabbat Chairman, and Mrs. Esther Friedman who supervises refreshments.

ANNIVERSARY GIFTS

Because of interest in the Sixtieth Anniversary celebration of the Synagogue, a number of unusual gifts have been made to the congregational archives. Among them are the following: The program of the first Confirmation Class on record, which was given to the Synagogue by Mrs. S. Keller, daughter of Mr. Marx Meyer, first President of the congregation. Mrs. Keller also presented to the Synagogue the lace handkerchief which was worn by her sister who was a member of the Confirmation Class of 1882. Another contribution was that of a dance program of 1889.

PAMPHLET ENCLOSED

Enclosed with this issue of The Scroll is a reprint of an article which was originally published in "Common Ground," the publication of the Common Council for American Unity. This article entitled "To Be Or Not To Be a Jew" is Rabbi Steinberg's statement of his essential philosophy of Jewish life. When it appeared in print last spring, it evoked widespread and favorable comment. Extracts from it were reprinted in the general and Anglo-Jewish press across the country. So significant did it prove that the Reconstruction Foundation undertook to prepare pamphlet reprints. These are being distributed to the membership of our congregation by a newly established Committee on Park Avenue Synagogue Publications.

The Committee urges recipients of this pamphlet to read it carefully as they feel it has much merit. Anyone desiring additional reprints for redistribution can procure them at 10c a copy by communicating with Miss Gertrude Robinson in the Synagogue office.

BAR MITZVAH

The Scroll is most genuinely happy to extend its congratulations to Cantor and Mrs. David J. Puttermann on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, William Zev. It wishes the Puttermans every happiness with the Bar Mitzvah, and for the Bar Mitzvah it hopes that he may live up to the full to the humane and significantly Jewish traditions of his family.

SEND YOUR DONATION

Rabbi Steinberg asks that those individuals who were kind enough to pledge donations to the Jewish Theological Seminary on Yom Kippur Day to send them along to the Seminary as soon as possible.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE WITH S.A.J. ON NOV. 20

The Park Avenue Synagogue will unite with the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in a joint service of Thanksgiving to be held on Thursday morning, November 20, at the S.A.J., 15 West 86th Street. Worship will begin at 10:45 o'clock. A special rubric of prayer, meditation and response has been prepared for the occasion.

Last year our congregation served as host to the members of the S.A.J. This year the S.A.J. is reciprocating. Every member and friend of the Park Avenue Synagogue is invited to attend. It is hoped that a number of our people will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them for joint worship and for the religious expression of their appreciation of American society.

Adamic's Book Sermon Theme

"Two Way Passage," the startling, bold publication of Louis Adamic, will be the theme of Rabbi Steinberg's sermon on Friday evening, December 5. This volume which has evoked animated discussion across the country contains a bold proposal to insure the winning of the war on the part of the democracies, and what is even more important, the winning of the peace which shall follow.

Every Scroll reader should be interested in this discussion of a significant and original program for American democratic action, which may offer us the way out of the human impasse for which all of us have been groping. It is recommended that the book be procured and read in advance of Rabbi Steinberg's treatment of it.

JUNIOR LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

A very successful barn dance held on November 8 in the vestry auspiciously marked the first of series "big events" to be sponsored by the Junior League. The American Square Dance Group put an appreciative crowd through the paces of traditional American folk dances.

The next meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the book "Josephus" by Feuchtwanger. Jack Gumbiner will conduct the discussion which will be held at the home of Renee Friedman.

RABBI SAYS THANKS

Rabbi Steinberg wishes to avail himself of the columns of The Scroll to express his gratitude to the members and seatholders of the Synagogue who on Yom Kippur Day generously pledged donations on behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He found the response of the congregation deeply gratifying.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Since the last issue of The Scroll our congregational family has been enlarged by several affiliations. The Scroll extends its enthusiastic greetings to our newly acquired fellow congregants who include:

- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rosh
- Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Levin
- Mr. and Mrs. Harold H. Levin
- Dr. and Mrs. James W. Smith
- Mr. and Mrs. Milton M. Schwarz
- Mr. and Mrs. William Frankel
- Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Leventhal
- Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Kaplan

To one and all a cordial welcome into our fellowship and a hope that they will find participation in the full life of our Synagogue a joy.

SISTERHOOD FLASHES

On the afternoon of October 28, following the open meeting, Sisterhood launched the first of its series of lectures on Civilian Defense.

Lt. Patrick J. Peterson of the Police Academy drew a vivid picture of the dangers of air attack and the organization formed by the Police Department to give civilians the most adequate protection against such attack. The speaker outlined in detail the Air Raid Warden set-up. A period of questions and answers followed which served to further enlighten those present and, we hope, to quicken the desire on our parts to cooperate with the Civilian Defense Program.

The Program Committee acted as hostess to the gathering and served a delightful afternoon tea.

With a great deal of pleasure, we noted a large attendance among whom were many of the newer members of Synagogue.

Be sure to attend the next meeting on Tuesday afternoon, November 25. At that time, the role the Fire Department has in Civilian Defense will be the topic presented by Mr. Louis Klein of the Fire Department. Everyone is welcome.

WOMEN'S HEBREW CLASSES

A Hebrew class for women will begin a series of 8 sessions on Wednesday morning, November 19, at 11 o'clock. This course is being offered to enable women who cannot read the Hebrew tongue to overcome that deficiency. The instructors of the class, Rabbis Steinberg and Zimet, promise that virtually every woman who attends will be prepared to read Hebrew at the end of 8 sessions. This enterprise is conducted jointly by the Committee on Adult Education and by the Sisterhood. A nominal registration fee of \$1 is being charged.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday School started the month of November with a very impressive celebration of Balfour Declaration Day on November 2. Class 7Y, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Gang, presented an evaluation of this important declaration by demonstrating a meeting of the House of Lords in October 1917, in which the Balfour declaration and all the problems involved were discussed.

A second presentation showed a group of chalutzim and chalutzot, young Palestinian pioneers, discussing the importance of the Balfour Declaration for our times. In addition to these presentations, there was a picture exhibit showing Lord Balfour and the growth of Palestine since the issuance of the Declaration.

Jewish Book Week

From November 23 to November 30, Jewish Book Week will be celebrated in all Jewish schools and institutions. The students of our Sunday and Hebrew Schools are working on a program which will include visiting Jewish libraries and museums, the preparation of a book exhibit in our Synagogue, and other features.

The installation of the new G. O. officers took place Sunday morning, November 9, on which occasion the officers addressed the student body and outlined to them a new and constructive program of the Student Organization for this term.

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one or the other of the founding congregations. These gentlemen will have a number of amusing and interesting recollections to share with the congregation.

Symposium on Temple Future

Friday evening, November 28, the last of the anniversary cycle will be devoted to the theme, "The Congregation Faces the Future." Leaders in diverse aspects of Synagogue activities will present their fields of special interest and describe the direction in which they are moving. Participating in the symposium will be: Mr. Frederick Finn on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Fred Abrams on behalf of the Sisterhood, Dr. Louis Shapiro on behalf of the Committee on Adult Education, Rabbi Erwin Zimet on behalf of the School Board, Mr. Dudley Greenstein on behalf of the Junior League, Mr. Robert Barzilay on behalf of the Club Council and Rabbi Steinberg on behalf of the pulpit.

Special Services Prepared

In conjunction with the latter two services of the series, special services of reading and response have been prepared.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the Friday evening anniversary cycle is composed of Mr. Samuel Klein,

TEMPLE TID-BITS

By FAY P. WIENER

THEY MAKE IT THEIR BIZ TO BE PROFESSORS OF QUIZ: To those who think our congregational family consists mainly of movie magnates and medicos, please note that we have sitting in the citadels of learning *Jesse G. Fox, Jack I. Maltz, Benjamin Baumritter, Emanuel Rosenthal, Mesdames Harry Gold, I. B. Oseas, Abraham Weinberg, Samuel Witte, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kurte, Misses Louisa Mayer, Bertha Katz and Minnie Ornstein . . .* SCOOP: The unique and swellelegant entertainment production, "The Theatre Brief of Hollywood," presented by *Mrs. Alex Ostriker*, who has deserted us amateurs for our more professional brethren. Clara just has to work with a footlight and spotlight, and pronto!, she's in the limelight . . .

TRAVELOGUE: *Samuel Wohl*, back from the Windy City, is all aglow because of the glowing reception he received from everyone including Rabbi Judah Goldin of Hillel, Univ. of Ill. It seems to us that a P.A.S. membership card entitles one to even more special privileges and salaaming than a P.B.A. card (Police card) . . . A READING "MUST": The current series of articles, Toward a Guide for Jewish Ritual Usage, in the Reconstructionist . . . COMMENT PIECES: The very commendatory copy on *Irvin Waldman* in an important periodical . . . The overtures made to *Ezra Cohen*, golf virtuoso, by the Hole-in-One Club for his whistling drive that ended way up in the cup . . . The exquisite antique jewelry worn by *Mrs. David Hoexter*, purchased from an Italian Princess on her last trip abroad . . . The museum-type bric-a-brac housed in the *Henry Silverstone* residence . . . *Mrs. Samuel Gellert's* endeavors on behalf of Bellevue Jewish patients in connection with the beautiful synagogue recently established in that institution . . .

SISTERHOOD'S informative course on Civilian Defense, where we've been meeting some charming gents . . . FRIDAY NIGHT BELONGS TO THE SYNAGOGUE: . . . From now on you know where to reach us each and every Friday night . . . The Oneg Shabbats following the services have been a wow . . . Lieutenant Governor Poletti's remark on singing the Palestinian songs from the song-sheet, "I didn't know you could learn to read Hebrew in one lesson" . . .

A MOST CORDIAL WELCOME: To *Mrs. Erwin Zimet's* parents, who finally reached the Land of the Free . . .

chairman; Messrs. Alex E. Arnshtain, Bernard Botein, D. Leonard Cohen, Maurice Finkelstein, Walter M. Holdstein, George Lyttle, Nelson Miller, Harold P. Seligson, Irvin Waldman, and Fred J. Zeitz.